

Special Interest Groups

Please feel free to use this guide to get started with a Special Interest Group. Interest groups serve to coordinate interest in a specific topic, with as little formal structure as possible. They are easy to create and convenient to run, while empowering motivated members to organize as desired. ***These Guides are subject to updates.***

About Intersect Groups

Committees: Formal decision-making bodies established to administer Intersect's general purposes. A committee is expected to be a permanent fixture, although changes may be required as the committees mature and the objectives evolve. Committees answer directly to Intersect's governing board via the Community Advisory Group and coordinate with Intersect staff and each other. Committee decision-making is based on the consensus of its seated members through votes.

Working Groups: Any subgroup of a committee formed to carry out a specific task/project/deliverable over a specified period of time, led by a nominated individual, agreed upon by the parent committee and accountable for delivery and documentation of the defined remit.

Special Interest Groups: A group for coordinating people who are interested in a specific topic in a low-stakes and exploratory way. This group type is supported with a light touch by the MCC, and participation where desired by other committees. It is intended to provide an easy way for small groups of members to coordinate without having to meet the standards of a formal Working Group.

Special Interest Group Operational Guide

Creation

Creation requires only a simple application and quick check by the MCC or aligned Committee. The application includes the following:

1. A brief description of the interest of the group.
2. Confirmation of Committee Alignment.
3. Assent to the difference between Interest Groups and Working Groups.
4. Assent to conducting the group in line with the Intersect code of conduct and Intersect's mission statement

Structure

What does an interest group actually consist of?

1. A simple form to become a member of the interest group
2. A discord channel for members
3. A discord role for members
4. An email list for members

This is intended to provide the simplest possible experience for basic coordination of Intersect members along a specific vector of interest.

Functions

1. *Communications*: the interest group discord @ and email list are accessible to the secretaries of the committees, and also by the interest group volunteer organizer(see below).
2. *Meetings and other coordination*: Left up to the initiative of members who can apply for volunteer organizer privileges in order to organize informally on a voluntary basis.

Roles and Governance

Administered by the aligned Committee - Interest groups are officially administered by an Intersect Committee. In practice, this mostly means keeping a standard of quality and relevance in the communications and endeavors being presented to the interest group members, and as a point of escalation if the moderation guidelines are violated.

Role ‘Volunteer Organizer’ - The only official special role within an interest group is Interest Group Volunteer Organizer, which allows a member to take a more active role in organizing other members of the group. This role has special access to the Intersect’s infrastructure, to organize with other members at their own initiative.

1. An organizer’s only responsibilities are to not violate a set of guidelines, namely the following:
 - a. Intersect’s membership agreement or purpose and to assent to the moderation agreement.

Key People At Intersect

Lara Bonasorte

- Head of Community - lara.bonasorte@intersectmbo.org
- manages all things community and membership together with **Abhik Nag**

Terence McCutcheon

- Open-Source Program Manager - terence.mccutcheon@intersectmbo.org
- general info & assist with setup

Karen Wickham

- Membership and Community Lead
- Working Group Request Form

Key Resources

- Intersect's Public Website: <https://IntersectMBO.org>
- Intersect's Discord Server: <https://discord.gg/yB8Rk8vyqc>
- Email Invitation template:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BljYWcPlgYN4uWnCwE0SToqsB-JUI2z3D7vKZ25g2Ufo>
- Meeting Slide presentation template:
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/161QqJWVXlxhVHruGN3cPDEzyuhMdUGaWkkiDcU7bdHQ>
- GitBook:
<https://app.gitbook.com/o/Prbm1mtkwSsGWSvG1Bfd/s/CRHkYsBzWMnZsSk4kyFU/overview/about-intersect-working-groups>
- Knowledge Base:
docs.intersectmbo.org